DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 190 323 RC 012 173

AUTHOR	George, Wuzzie: And Others
TITLE	Origin of the Pinenuts and Other Stories from the Walker River Paiute Reservation.
INSTITUTION	Walker River Paiute Tribe, Schurz, Nev.
SPONS AGENCY	Office of Education (DHEW), Washington, D.C. Ethnic Heritage Studies Branch.
PUB DATE	Sep 79
NOTE	22p.: Adapted from an original story as told by Wuzzie George and retold by Hazel Cook.
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*American Indian Culture: American Indian Education: *American Indian Literature: American Indians: *Childrens Literature: Cultural Awareness: *Cultural Background: Elementary Education: *Instructional Materials: Legends: *Oral History: Reading Materials
IDENTIFIERS	Cultural Contributions: Ethnic Heritage Studies Program: Paiute (Tribe): *Walker River Paiute Reservation NV

ABSTRACT

The four stories gathered from Paiute Tribal Elders through the Ethnic Heritage Studies Program have been changed from the original telling insofar as it was necessary to make them suitable to the elementary level. The short stories, meant to be spoken orally, relate how the Walker Lake Paiutes got pinenuts away from the Owyhee area ("Origin of the Pinenuts"): how the only man and woman surviving a flood have four children ("An Origin Story"): why the coyote howls ("How the Seasons Came About"): and how the trout wandered until he found just the right spot for his home ("How the Trout Came to Summit Lake"). Black and white pictures illustrate the text and there is space for the reader to provide his own illustrations for one tale. A short vocabulary list completes the book. (SB)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED190323

ORIGIN OF THE PINENUTS
AND OTHER STORIES

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Walker River Ethnic Heritage Program
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

RC 012173

STORIES FROM THE WALKER RIVER PAIUTE RESERVATION

NEVADA
Walker River
Paiute Ed. Comm.

"Paiute Culture:
Dev. & Dissem.
1978

INTRODUCTION

The Ethnic Heritage Studies Program gratefully acknowledges those Elders who have contributed to this first short story booklet. They are: Wuzzie George, Hazel Cook, Roy Higgins, and Jake Vipont. We would also like to thank local artist Wayne Powell for his work in the first story.

These stories should be spoken orally and students should be encouraged to tell other stories they know. Possibly in this way, other stories could be collected. Other Elders should be asked to the school to tell stories also.

These four stories were kept as close to the original telling as possible, but some changes had to be made in adapting them to the elementary grades.

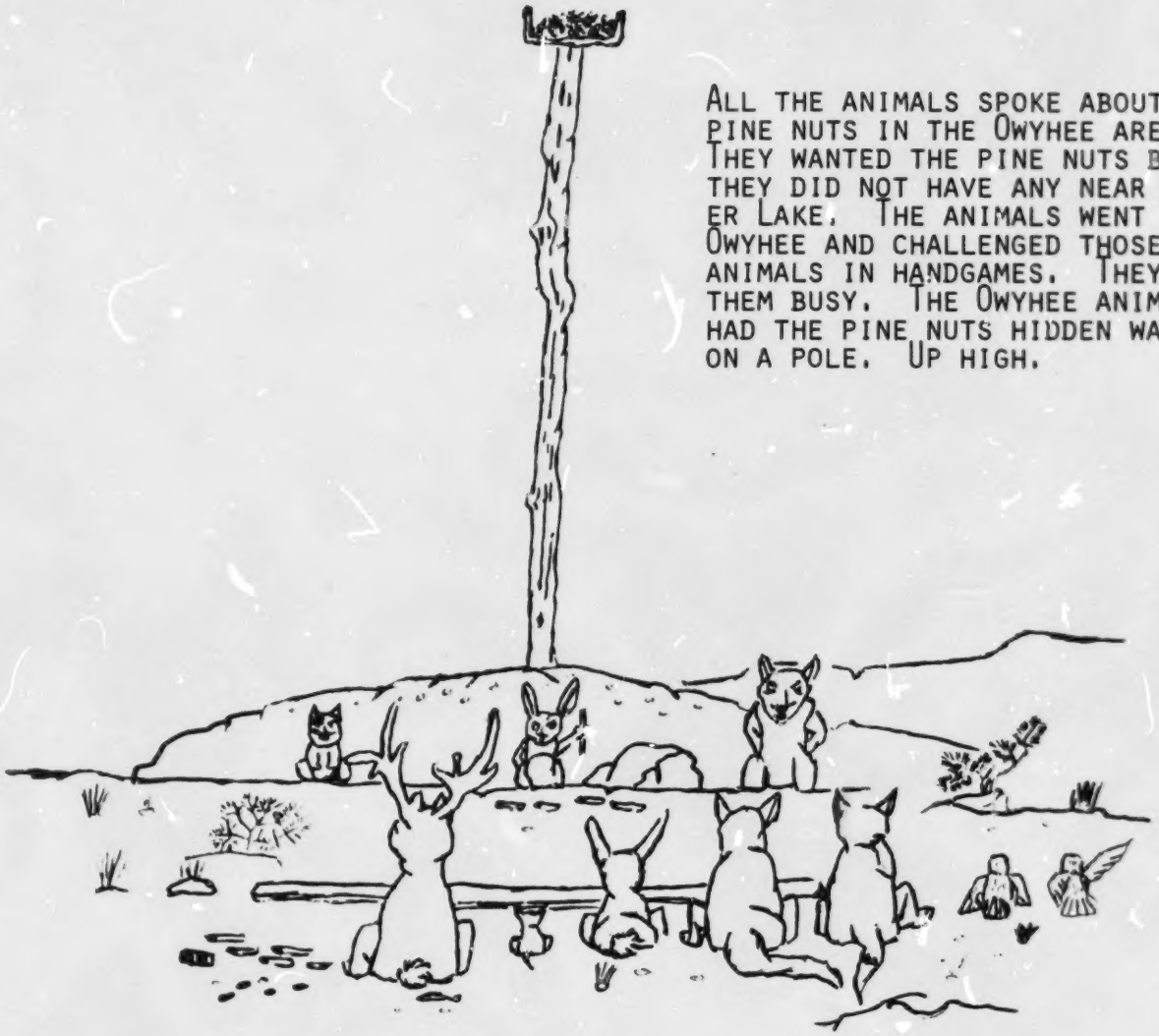
The Ethnic Heritage Studies Program used Title IX funds to produce this booklet. It was completed in Sept. 1979.

The Ethnic Heritage Program
Schurz, Nevada

ORIGIN OF THE PINENUTS

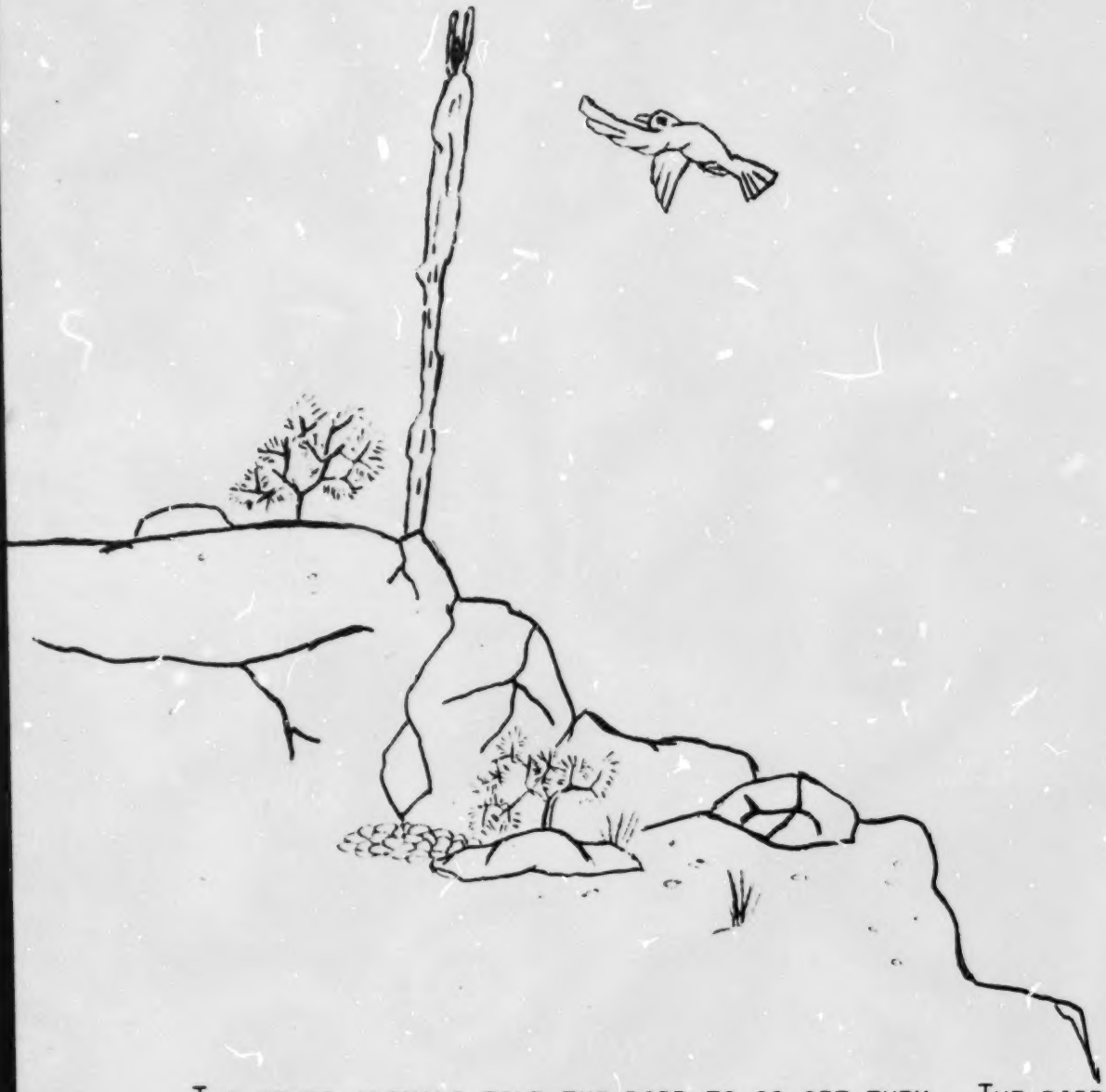
Adapted from an original story
as told by Wuzzie George
and retold by Hazel Cook
Drawings by Wayne Powell

LONG TIME AGO, MANY ANIMALS WERE FLYING AROUND THE LAND.



ALL THE ANIMALS SPOKE ABOUT THE PINE NUTS IN THE OWYHEE AREA. THEY WANTED THE PINE NUTS BECAUSE THEY DID NOT HAVE ANY NEAR WALKER LAKE. THE ANIMALS WENT TO OWYHEE AND CHALLENGED THOSE ANIMALS IN HANDGAMES. THEY KEPT THEM BUSY. THE OWYHEE ANIMALS HAD THE PINE NUTS HIDDEN WAY UP ON A POLE. UP HIGH.

THE PEOPLE WHO WENT FROM THIS AREA WERE THE COYOTE, WOLVES, ALL BIRDS, MICE, AND THE OWL. THEY HAD BEEN TOLD WHAT TO DO. THE OWL WAS TO WATCH FOR THE PINE NUTS BECAUSE EVEN AT NIGHT HE COULD SEE WELL. THE COYOTE WANTED TO LOOK FOR THE PINE NUTS BUT THE OTHERS TOLD HIM NO. NO ONE WANTED COYOTE TO BOTHER.



THE OTHER ANIMALS TOLD THE BIRD TO GO GET THEM. THE BIRD FLEW UP AND GOT THEM OUT FROM THE POLE WHERE IT WAS HIDDEN. THEN HE FLEW OFF. MEANWHILE THE OWYHEE HANDGAME PLAYERS LEARNED THAT THE BIRD HAD FOUND THE PINE NUTS AND HAD FLOWN AWAY. THE WALKER LAKE PEOPLE THEN LEFT THE GAME.

THE OWYHEE PLAYERS THAT WERE LEFT KNEW THAT THE WALKER RIVER HAND-GAME PLAYERS TOOK THEIR PINE NUTS. THEY SAID WE ARE GOING TO GET THEM BACK AND THE ONLY WAY IS BY KILLING EVERY ONE OF THEM BECAUSE ONE OF THEM WILL HAVE THE PINE NUTS HIDDEN INSIDE THEIR STOMACH OR SOMEWHERE ELSE. THEY CHASED THESE ANIMALS AND KILLED EVERY ONE OF THEM AS THEY CAUGHT UP TO THEM HEADING SOUTH.

6

MEANWHILE WHEN THE OWYHEE ANIMALS WERE ABOUT TO GET EVERYONE, THEY TOLD STINKBIRD TO GET THE PINE NUTS AND PUT THEM IN HIS SKIN. THE STINKBIRD'S SKIN WAS ROTTEN. NOBODY LIKED HIM AND HE WAS AN OUTCAST BUT THERE WAS NO PLACE TO PUT THE PINENUTS. THE PINE NUTS WERE PUT INTO THE STINKBIRD'S BODY, THE OWYHEE PEOPLE DID NOT THINK HE WOULD HAVE THEM BECAUSE HE WAS SICKLY. SO HE WAS KILLED AND THROWN ASIDE, LATER, THE PEOPLE THAT WERE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE FOUND STINKBIRD'S BODY AND GOT THE PINE NUTS OUT OF HIM AND BROUGHT THEM WITH HIM.

ONE WALKER LAKE ANIMAL STAYED BEHIND AND HE MADE THE KILLED ONES COME ALIVE AGAIN. THEY THEN HEADED SOUTH.

8

THOSE FROM OWYHEE FINALLY GAVE UP CHASING THEM AND WENT BACK HOME.

WHEN THE ANIMALS GOT TO WALKER LAKE, THE ANIMALS HAD TO DECIDE HOW TO PLANT THE PINE NUTS. THEY ALL HAD DIFFERENT WAYS OF PLANTING THEM. COYOTE WAS ALWAYS THERE AND WANTED TO TAKE A HAND IN EVERYTHING, BUT THE OTHER ANIMALS WOULD NOT LET HIM. THE ANIMALS PLANTED BY SPITTING THE PINE NUTS ALONG THE HILLSIDES. COYOTE SPIT PINE NUTS TOO BUT ALL THE NUTS HE PLANTED GREW HARD TIMBER (CEDAR TREES) NOT PINE TREES.

THAT IS HOW THE WALKER LAKE PAIUTES GOT PINE NUTS. TODAY THERE ARE NO PINE NUTS UP TOWARD OWYHEE. THE PEOPLE FROM OWYHEE TELL THE STORY THE SAME WAY. WITH THE WALKER LAKE PEOPLE TAKING THEIR PINE NUTS AWAY.

AN ORIGIN STORY

adapted from an original story as told
by Roy Higgins and Hazel Cook

The sagehen was sitting on top of Mt. Grant when the earth flooded. The only place that was dry was over on the high mountain top, where the water did not reach. The sagehen was the only bird that survived during the flood and he held the fire under his wings, protecting it from going out just like if he was sitting on it. This fire was supposed to generate the Indian people on this earth. That's the reason why the sagehen is black underneath. He was burned by the fire.

The water almost got over Mt. Grant. The sagehen's tail was touching the water and that is why the sagehen's tail is kind of rough now.

There was a woman on top of Mt. Grant when the earth flooded. There was just a little speck of dry land left on the high mountain.

While the woman was there, over east of Fallon near a high mountain (Job Peak) there was a man. When the flood receded, the woman was told to go to that man who would be her husband. She found him and they raised two boys and two girls.

The two boys were pretty mischievious (one especially). They made little bows and arrows and while the old man was lying down sunning himself, they got on his knees and they were shooting at him. Finally the old man got mad and he parted them. He said, "You go north and you go south." Then he said that whoever is going to amount to something has to know how to build a fire. So the old man sat on top of the mountain watching them.

When they climbed down the mountain, they started to build the fires. The one on the north would not blaze quickly. It just smoldered and smoldered. The boy was a littel roudy and that's why his fire didn't start-up right away. The one on the south built a fire and puff, he had it started.

HOW THE SEASONS CAME ABOUT
adapted from an origianl story
as told by Hazel Cook

One day all the animals gathered together and said that they were going to make the seasons. They talked to each other in their own language. They decided on a three month season but Coyote said no. "I don't like that idea. I want a 10 month season, "Coyote said. The other animals said no to that idea because it was too long. Coyote said, "I am going to get my pipe so I can help you, so wait for me." So he went after his pipe.

While he was gone the animals decided they didn't like his idea and decided to make the final decision right now. They made their seasons every three months. The season were summer, winter, spring, and fall. A ten month season was too long.

When Coyote came back, the other animals told him that they were through and they did not need his help now. Coyote got mad. He started to throw a tantrum. He wagged his tail and cried every way he could and made all kinds of noise and trouble.

HOW THE TROUT CAME TO SUMMIT LAKE
adapted from an original story
as told by Manuel McCloud

CAN YOU DRAW THE PICTURES FOR THIS STORY?

A long time ago the big trout stayed in Mono Lake. He didn't like the water over there and so he came to Walker Lake looking for fresh water.

He came out over along by the old bridge on Walker River. There someone said that he could not stay there because he wasn't the right kind. He didn't live underground. He lived underwater.

So the trout was told that he might find water down the valley. "You go over this hill and go down and you will probably slide right into it." He went there but the water wasn't deep enough. He looked for some other place.

He scouted around and went to the sinks over at Fallon. There he said, "There's too many tules. You can't swim anywhere. You are always bumping into tules and they are always in your way. You can't get away from anything because the tules are too thick through here. You don't have much freedom."

So the trout left and went to Pyramid Lake. That water was a little too deep. There were different kinds of animals there and the trout didn't want to live there. He said that they might eat him up. He didn't like the taste of the water anyhow. So he decided to go somewhere else. "I wonder if there would be a place up north, maybe Summit Lake?"

So he went up to Summit Lake. There someone saw his backbone. So he said, "I've got to get a little bit smaller. I can live here because this is much better water. The other waters are too salty." That's how the trout got up in the good clear water of Summit Lake.

KEY WORDS

Recognition of these words is needed for understanding the stories in this book.

Origin of the Pinenuts:

pinenuts	handgame	cedar
Owyhee area	outcast	

An Origin Story:

sagehen	Mt. Grant	receded
speck	Job Peak	mischievious
smoldered		

How The Seasons Came About:

tantrum

How the Trout Came To Summit Lake:

Mono Lake	tules
sinks	Summit Lake